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13 December 1949

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Crisis Situations

1. The Standing Committee of the Intelligence Advisory Committee met on December 12 and approved of the enclosed amendment to NSCID No. 1, which is somewhat different from General Irwin's original proposal in that it now provides for crisis information being promptly furnished "other members of the IAC." The CIA members reiterated their position outlined in the memoranda of November 10 and November 30 that this proposal about Crisis Situations should be a DCI Directive in accordance with NSCID No. 1, paragraph 3(c) as it is merely an extension of the duties of the Director of Central Intelligence outlined in the National Security Act of 1947 as amended, NSCID No. 1, NSCID No. 3, and DCI Directives 3/1 and 3/2. The State Department member stated he did not care whether it is an amendment to NSCID No. 1 or a new DCI.

2. COMPS does not approve of putting such an additional detailed paragraph in the overall NSCID No. 1 when it already contains paragraph 3(c) on issuing implementing DCI directives, Paragraph 4 on general production and Paragraph 5 on dissemination, and when there are in existence, implementing that Paragraph 4, NSCID No. 3 and DCI 3/1 and 3/2. We maintain that the Director of Central Intelligence already has the responsibility of producing such a national estimate whether or not it is a crisis situation, showing, as is customary, the concurrences or non-concurrences of the Intelligence Advisory Committee members. Their primary responsibility is to get the

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information over to the Director of Central Intelligence and then to censor or dissent in the National Estimate.

3. The Standing Committee members feel that in crisis situations all of the Intelligence Advisory Committee members should get the information and give estimates of the situation to the Director of Central Intelligence, not just ordinary concurrences or non-concurrences to his estimate. And they prefer collective rather than individual action.

4. It is interesting to note that all Standing Committee members except Army and Air Force had previously told us they preferred the DCI *directive* but that at the meeting they all voted for the amendment to the NSCIB, maintaining that it would have greater weight with all elements of the Pentagon than a DCI directive because it would have been issued by the SEC on which the Secretary of Defense is a member. They would not accept the procedure outlined in paragraph 3(c) of NSCIB No. 1. The approved amendment, of course, plays up the Intelligence Advisory Committee and plays down the responsibilities of the DCI - as usual - whereas our draft was vice versa. In this instance it is assumed that the IAC Members themselves will support the Standing Committee proposal - contrary to their usual procedure!!

5. We recommend that you submit to Mr. Souers for his views your proposal for a DCI somewhat similar to the November 30 revision (enclosed herewith) and also the enclosed Standing Committee version of an additional paragraph to NSCIB No. 1, stating that you think it is more appropriate to have an implementing DCI rather than an amendment to NSCIB No. 1 on this specific subject, but that the IAC Members prefer the latter.

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6. We do not like "show-downs" but we do feel strongly that the time has come to curb the growing tendency of collective IAC responsibility as the controllers of CIA. And we do think their proposal for an NSCID amendment is incorrect procedure under the standing directives. If they will not accept ICI directives, all operating as well as policy matters will have to go to the IAC for issuance.

PRESIDENT CHILDS, Chief  
Coordination, Operations  
and Policy Staff

Enclosure:

Proposed ICI directive  
" new IP for NSCID #1

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